

Message Text

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S E C R E T AMMAN 8634

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER -- KING'S VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HE MENTIONED THAT KING WOULD LIKE TO VISIT US NEAR THE END OF MARCH 1976, FOLLOWING A VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI OF KING'S PROJECTED TRAVEL SCHEDULE, RIFAI MENTIONED HE AND KING HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT MAKING A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. HE RECALLED THAT SECRETARY HAD MENTIONED TO KING DURING LAST VISIT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMING TO THE US AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. KING HAD CONSIDERED THIS CAREFULLY AND FELT WITH HIS OWN SCHEDULE, OTHER ARAB VISITS TO THE US, AND WHAT HE KNEW OF THE SECRETARY'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, HE DID NOT FEEL HE COULD PLAN ON COMING EARLIER THAN SPRING 1976. RIFAI SAID THE KING HAD MADE SOME ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN IN MARCH. THE KING WOULD BE LEAVING AMMAN AROUND THE THIRD OF MARCH AND WOULD WIND UP IN JAPAN ON MARCH 17. EVER SINCE THE KING'S VISIT LAST YEAR, HE HAD HOPED TO GO TO THE WEST COAST. IF CONVENIENT TO THE US, HE WAS NOW THINKING OF ARRIVING FROM JAPAN FOR A DAY OR TWO IN HAWAII, PROCEEDING TO THE WEST COAST WHERE HE HOPED TO MAKE A FEW SPEECHES, PERHAPS MAKING ONE STOP IN THE MIDWEST AND THEN COMING TO WASHINGTON SOMEWHERE AROUND

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MARCH 25.

3. RIFAI SAID HE KNOW IT WAS EARLY TO BE MENTIONING THIS, BUT HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE KING AS USUAL TO SPEND THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN WASHINGTON AT BLAIR HOUSE AND THEN GO ON FOR HIS REGULAR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AT WALTER REED. RIFAI DID NOT RAISE AT THIS POINT THE QUESTION OF A SUBSEQUENT WEEK IN FLORIDA WHICH HAS BECOME ALMOST TRADITIONAL. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS SOME THOUGHT BEING GIVEN IN JORDAN TO DISPENSING WITH THIS PART OF THE TRIP.

4. I TOLD RIFAI IT WAS GOOD FOR US TO KNOW THEIR THOUGHTS EARLY FOR OUR OWN PLANNING PURPOSES. HE ASKED IF I WOULD SOUND OUT WASHINGTON AND SEE IF THE DATES ARE CONVENIENT AND FREE OF CONFLICT. HE INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF DAYS, ALTHOUGH WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT AUSTRALIAN AND JAPANESE PORTIONS OF THE TRIP ARE ALREADY LOCKED IN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: SOME INDICATION FROM DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE AS TO WHETHER FOR PLANNING PURPOSES JORDANIAN PROPOSED DATES WOULD BE CONVENIENT, OR IFNOT, SOME SUGGESTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES WITHIN THE SAME GENERAL TIME PERIOD AS OUTLINED ABOVE.
PICKERING

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